Child Abuse Prevention Month Starts April 1

Will you commit to building youth resilience?

Throughout Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), Yolo County Children’s Alliance (YCCA), and partners are raising awareness of how to nurture resilient families and youth in the region. This year, the CAPC will be leveraging the Strong Families Yolo website, launched in 2021, to provide interactive resources and educational materials focused on the needs of youth and their parents/caregivers.

Youth and their families continue to face stressors induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, and they continue to grapple with the collateral consequences of the coronavirus - school and workplace closures, social isolation, and overall atmospheric stressors during these times of uncertainty. The Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council has collaborated with school districts and youth services organizations to engage and empower youth to directly inform the process of curating and disseminating a resource guide. Through a youth survey and focus group, the CAPC found that the primary concerns of youth today include loneliness, stress and anxiety triggered by various factors, and fear of being unprepared as they transition into adult responsibilities.

To address these concerns, the CAPC has developed a guide that provides resources and information promoting resilience, self-care and personal growth. In addition to the youth guide, the CAPC will have an accompanying guide for parents/caregivers focused on supporting and strengthening their youth. The goal of these two guides is to be engaging and interactive in its intent to build youth resilience in Yolo County. These guides serve as a conduit to the Strong Families Yolo website, which holds a library of resources that both youth and their parent/caregiver can use and share.
“During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we are reminded of how all of us play a critical role in empowering and strengthening our youth,” said Chief Robert Strange, West Sacramento Chief of Police. “The effects of the pandemic are often talked about in the sense of ‘food and housing insecurity, and job loss’ but we need to remember that our youth, who we as a community are responsible for setting up for success, have been detrimentally impacted by a major lack of support. As a community, it’s our responsibility to make sure these youth and their families have the tools to take care of themselves, and in turn take care of each other.”

Commit to Our Youth & Share Here!

Big Day of Giving | May 5, 2022
Yes, BDOG is here already, and we can’t wait!

We can’t believe BDOG is here already, and we are so excited to raise money for local non-profits with you!

Last year, donors helped raise more than $11,000 for the Yolo County Children’s Alliance. This money goes directly into essential resources for families, like diapers, food, coats for kids, and transportation assistance.

This year, our goal is to double those funds! With more families in our community still facing the effects of the pandemic, and even more moving to our county as refugees, the need for support is higher than ever.

Join us in supporting our community this Big Day of Giving!

www.BigDayofGiving.org/YCCA

Giving on Big Day of Giving is Easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Visit www.BigDayofGiving.org/YCCA to learn more about our organization!

2. Donate starting NOW! Early giving until May 5 helps us reach our goal of $25,000 to go towards essential resources for children and families.

3. Fundraise & Share! Start your own fundraiser for the Yolo County Children’s Alliance, and share it online via email, social media, text – you name it!
Team Shoutout! Jessica Jimenez

Jessica Jimenez has worked with YCCA for 13+ years! She started with one of our early programs, HeadStart, as a volunteer, and worked to graduate to a supervisor position, now in our Healthy Families Yolo County home visiting program. Jessica loves working with children, she describes it as "the best experience you can have. I got to see the kids eyes light up when they've learned something new. I had the opportunity to work with children who have disabilities, behavior problem and children who spoke other languages." As a home visitor Jessica establishes a trusting relationship with a child's caregiver, helping them recognize the importance of child development activities, like reading activities to help build language and cognitive development. "My favorite part about working at YCCA is the bond within the group of staff members that has developed into long lasting friendships over the years. Being part of a family and knowing that I can count on my team members for support in work and personal life is the best."

Jess was the first home visitor hired when our home visiting program was began in 2009, recently celebrating her 13th anniversary with our team! From supporting parents with developmental delays, to visiting homeless camps to deliver aid, to helping families grieve devastating losses, to witnessing babies grow and thrive, to celebrating countless goals achieved, Jess has experience to share for nearly any situation new home visitors may face. Her dedication to our team and the hundreds of families she has supported over the years is exceptional! -Lana Casper, HFYC Program Manager

Programs for the Community: HAPPENING NOW & COMING UP!

All of our programs are free for eligible individuals. All YCCA programs are offered in-person and or virtually if needed, and offered in English, Spanish, Russian, and Farsi.

**Big Day of Giving** *(Early Giving)* NOW!
May 5, 2022 is Big Day of Giving! That means that everyone in our community works together to support non-profits working to better our region. Join YCCA as we work to bring in funds that go directly into the hands of families who need extra support!

**Rent Relief California** NOW!
YCCA's housing team is working tirelessly with landlords and tenants who were affected by the pandemic to help support individuals with their backpay of rent, and utilities! Call our team to set up an appointment for rent and utility support at 530-902-4574. Our team will walk you through the eligibility and application process.

**California Health Initiative: Health coverage for all families!** NOW!
YCCA staff are certified Covered California Enrollment Counselors, and can walk you and your family through the enrollment, or re-enrollment process to ensure you're covered within your budget. Staff are also certified to assist with MediCal enrollment and re-enrollment. Even if you already have insurance, our staff are happy to help navigate the health care system, whether it’s to access health care services or to understand a bill or statement. In addition to health coverage, our team can help enroll you into CalFresh, where your family can receive monthly cash benefits to purchase groceries!

**VITA Season: Tax Day is April 18, 2022** NOW!
Get your taxes prepared - for free! Our staff are IRS certified in the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance Program throughout the County and can help you file your taxes for free! Qualifications are considered for this program, but setting up an appointment is as easy as calling our Family Resource Center at 916-572-0560.

We Can't Do It With Out YOU!
Every year, our families need unrestricted support from community supporters like you. These donations go directly into the hands of our community through resources, diapers, emergency food supplies, coats, blankets - you name it. No donation is too small, and all support you give, is truly felt by our clients and our staff. Thank you for your dedication to our agency!

Yolo County Children’s Alliance (YCCA), established in 2002, is a 501(c)(3) organization and an inter-agency collaborative that coordinates needed family support services, convenes child and family advocates to solve community problems, and gathers and disseminates local information about the needs and the wellbeing of Yolo County families. YCCA helps families, particularly non-English speaking families, access services, learn valuable parenting skills, and find support. We do this through family strengthening programs which focus on Family Support, Parent Education, and Collaboration & Advocacy.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH YCCA!

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